



National Guard State Partnership Program

Senior Leader Quotes January – March 2014







Defense Minister Reinsalu

Estonian Defense Minister Urmas Reinsalu, at CSIS event 6 January 2014:

- "First, I'm very proud that among us are two helicopter pilots from the Estonian Air Forces who have served in Afghanistan with US troops, who now serve in the Maryland National Guard. I truly welcome you here."
- "... [US] presence could be produced in the most cost effective ways especially in our region. We would very much appreciate in coming times that we will be on the agenda for alliances and bilateral cooperation."

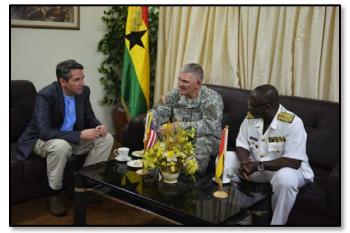






North Dakota Lt Gov Drew Wrigley at North Dakota/Ghana 10 Year Anniversary, January 2014:

 "This endeavor began ten years ago as a military partnership and has spread to healthcare, business and economic partnerships. Later this month, another delegation will visit from North Dakota that will bring experts in the fields of industry, trade, and agriculture. They will reach out to the people of Ghana in an effort to enhance the value to this State Partnership Program."



Lt Gov Wrigley





Montenegrin Chief of Defense Vice Admiral Dragan Samardzic, February 2014:

"The Armed Forces of Montenegro consider cooperation with the National Guard of Maine as well as the cooperation with the U.S. Armed Forces in general, very meaningful and of extraordinary quality. A large number of bilateral activities have been aimed at increasing capabilities of the Armed Forces of Montenegro for achieving necessary standards for a full NATO membership."





Admiral Samardzic







Rep. Nugent

Representative Richard Nugent during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 28 January 2014:

"Deployments of National Guard resources are a plus for those Guardsman, because of particularly, on the training aspect of it, it gives them the ability to learn their tradecraft better, particularly for our aviation assets. (Question posed to Michael Lumpkin, Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Policy): Do you see National Guard rotations to PACOM [being utilized] to assist, obviously the National Guard, but to assist in the mission of PACOM?"





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Rep. Duckworth

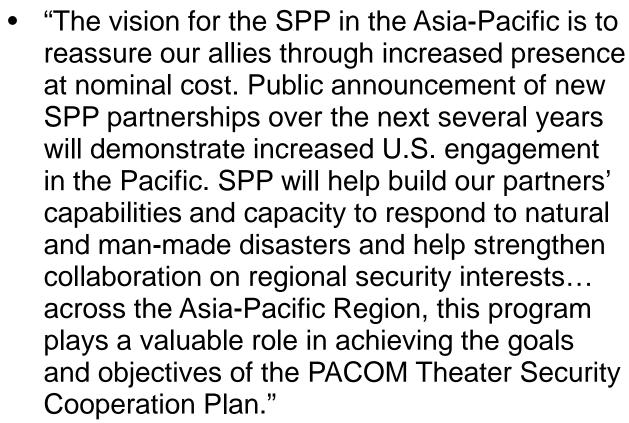
Representative Tammy Duckworth during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 28 January 2014:

"I think [PACOM strategic vision for SPP] will be very insightful, especially [because of] the unique capabilities of those National Guard troops. You know, the average Guardsman out of Hawaii – that are second generation Filipinos – can meld very easily into the cultures of the Philippines similarly with other nations in the Asia-Pacific region. And I think, as we look to increase trade, increase our participation in the Asia-Pacific region, they [the National Guard] will be a critical resource."





Vice Admiral Frank Craig Pandolfe, Director, JCS J5, written response to Rep. Tammy Duckworth:





Vice Admiral Pandolfe







Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 6 March 2014:

• "Those ISPRI relationships

 "Those [SPP] relationships continue to be very strong. It will continue to be strong. It's been very effective and we look forward to find ways to broaden and expand it."

SecDef Hagel







GEN Dempsey

- General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 6 March 2014:
- "We reflect the support of the program [SPP] in the [FY2015] budget. In fact, just this last week there were two more nations entered in to the SPP. It's a very effective program."



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Senior Leaders Praise SPP

U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND



Admiral Locklear

Admiral James Locklear,

Commander, US Pacific Command, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 5 March, 2014:

 "They provide some capabilities and capacities that are important to the AOR so we're very appreciative of them. We have seven State Partnership Programs in my AOR. There are some areas we'd like to grow those in."



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Senior Leaders Praise SPP

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GEN Rodriguez

General David M. Rodriguez, Commander, US Africa Command, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing, 5 March 2014:

 "We have eight states that are in the State Partnership Program. They perform a great role in building relationships as well as building capacity of our partners. We have just expanded North Dakota from one [partner] country to three and we're also putting more requests in to have a couple more SPPs. So they've been a long-term benefit to us in AFRICOM."







- General John F. Kelly, Commander, US Southern Command, Senate Armed Services Committee written testimony, submitted 6 March 2014:
- "We rely heavily on the National Guard's State Partnership Program to conduct our activities."

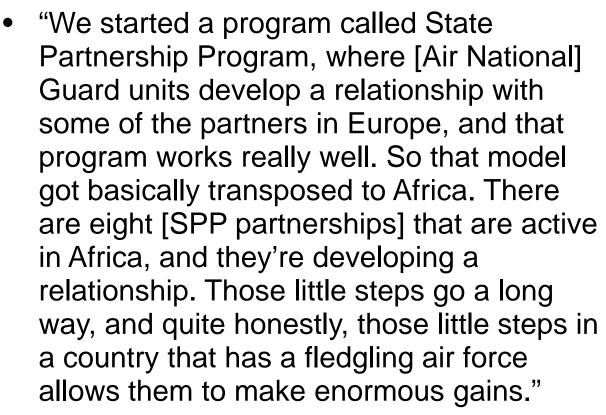


GEN Kelly















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